

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
AMPTHILL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Twenty-fifth Annual Report.

This will, for the following reason, be rather shorter than usual, viz., all Medical Officers of Health have been requested by the Minister of Health to omit all details of conditions which do not vary from year to year, and to curtail the information asked for in certain years. It is hoped, by this means, to effect a reduction, both in the time required by Medical Officers for preparing the Reports, and in the cost of printing them, without detriment to its main objects. However, at intervals of about every five years, a more detailed Report will be required.

Since my last Report was written, I have been able to get from the Ministry the populations of the various villages in this area, as well as the total population of the entire District.

The total population of the entire District at the last census was, according to the last statement of the Census Office, 19,334. The civilian population is, however, estimated at 19,190.

I now give the population of the various parishes, with a comparison of the last two censuses:—

	1911.	1921.	
Aspley Guise	1227	1230	+ 3
Aspley Heath	572	522	— 50
Battlesden	66	71	+ 5
Clophill	916	910	— 6
Cranfield	1199	1059	— 140
Eversholt	609	504	— 105
Flitton	463	443	— 20
Flitwick	1424	1640	+ 216
Gravenhurst (Upper & Lower)	377	351	— 26
Harlington	609	554	— 55
Haynes	676	705	+ 29
Higham Gobion	76	59	— 17
Hulcote	49	57	+ 8
Houghton Conquest	535	560	+ 25
Husborne Crawley	365	359	— 6
Lidlington	502	498	— 4
Marston Moretaine	1025	987	— 38
Maulden	1101	1165	+ 64
Millbrook	201	195	— 6
Milton Bryan	199	183	— 16
Pottesgrove	108	100	— 8
Pulloxhill	419	374	— 45
Ridgmount	540	496	— 44
Salford	136	125	— 11
Shillington	1588	1625	+ 37
Silsoe	561	585	+ 24
Steppingley	254	264	+ 10
Tingrith	129	129	—
Toddington	1948	2001	+ 53
Westoning	494	521	+ 27
Woburn	1122	1062	— 60

DEATH-RATE. I will first of all take the Death-rate of the District. The corrected number of Deaths is 276, which compares favourably with last year, when 293 was recorded. This gives a Death-rate of 14.3, which compares unfavourably with 12.9 of the rest of England.

I will now classify the Deaths according to ages.

Under one year of age	18	Between 10 and 15	5
Between 1 and 2	10	,, 15 „ 20	3
,, 2 „ 3	2	,, 20 „ 35	24
,, 3 „ 4	<i>Nil.</i>	,, 35 „ 45	12
,, 4 „ 5	1	,, 45 „ 65	48
,, 5 „ 10	1	Over 65 years of age	152

You will see that over half the deaths were in people over 65 years of age.

BIRTH-RATE. I will now come to this most important matter. As the number of births is 372, it gives a Birth-rate of 19.3, which is an improvement on 18.4 of the previous year. It, however, compares unfavourably with the rest of England and Wales, which is 20.6. The number of children born out of wedlock is 18, which is an increase on the previous year of 11. This shews that out of every 1,000 births, 48.4 are illegitimate.

The number of children who died under one year of age is 18, which gives an infantile mortality of 48.4, which compares most favourably with the rest of England and Wales, which is 77. No deaths of illegitimate children under one year of age have been recorded.

CANCER. The deaths from this disease amounted to 26, which is a diminution of 6 on the previous year. This disease varies very little from year to year. No specific has been discovered, and our only hope is to diagnose the case early and operate.

The cases are distributed over the following parishes, viz., Aspley Heath, 1; Aspley Guise, 4; Cranfield, 2; Clophill, 1; Flitton, 1; Flitwick, 5; Houghton Conquest, 2; Maulden, 1; Pulloxhill, 2; Ridgmount, 1; Shillington, 5; and Westoning, 1.

The following are the organs affected:—

Aesophagus	3	Liver	...	2
Breast	2	Prostate	...	1
Bowel	3	Rib	...	1
Glands of Neck	2	Stomach	...	10
Gall Bladder	1	Uterus	...	1

Thirteen of the cases occurred amongst males, and a similar number amongst females. The ages at which death occurred ranged from 40 to 80.

INFLUENZA. A rather severe epidemic occurred during the early part of the year, resulting in several deaths. It commenced during December of the previous year, and gradually increased in severity. Altogether 18 deaths were recorded.

TUBERCULOSIS. This disease shows very little tendency to diminish. If fewer notifications and deaths are recorded one year, it is generally countered by an increased number the following one. The number of deaths recorded was 20, which compares favourably with 24 of the previous year. In 15 of these the lungs were affected.

My Council have taken the following steps in order to prevent the spread of the disease:—

- All houses where deaths have occurred are disinfected.
- Printed instructions are sent to all cases.
- Pocket spittoons and paper handkerchiefs are given to all poor people affected with the disease.
- The Council defrays the cost of examination of the sputum in doubtful cases.

The County Council Sanatorium at Muggerhanger is an excellently equipped building, and is under the able supervision of Dr. Welch, the County Tuberculosis Officer. It is of great advantage as the County is not so dependent on sanatoria belonging to other bodies, and is able to remove patients more expeditiously. I cannot do better than repeat what I have said on previous occasions, viz., if the onslaught on this disease is to be successful, the treatment of all Pulmonary cases will have to be grappled with. This disease will have to be diagnosed early, and the patients sent to sanatoria, as the chance of a cure gets less and less as the disease advances. Advanced cases in small households will have to be removed from their surroundings to prevent its spread. There is, I know, a sentimental objection to this, but sentiment must be swept aside when the good of the community is at stake. It is the advanced cases, attended with a great deal of expectoration, that are the menace to the people who live in close proximity to them; early cases are less dangerous. The main preventive and curative agent for the disease is, a liberal supply of fresh air. Most of the cottages in this district have only two bedrooms, and these are, as a rule, small; the cubic space per head is thus in many cases very limited, and unless the air can be frequently renewed,

the atmosphere becomes very polluted. Under the circumstances it is highly necessary that bedroom windows should be kept open day and night, and the chimneys not blocked, as they are in some instances. In regard to this matter, I think the veterinary inspection of cows at periodical intervals is a necessity, and no doubt this can be done more economically by the County Council than by any other body.

The number of Tuberculosis notifications received during the year (excluding those on Forms C and D) amounted to 24, which is a great diminution on 40 of the previous year. Of these, 18 are Pulmonary cases; Glands, 2; Joints, 2; Peritoneum, 1; and Generalized, 1. They are distributed over the following parishes, viz., Aspley Guise, 2; Clophill, 1; Cranfield, 1; Flitwick, 3; Lidlington, 1; Marston Moretaine, 2; Maulden, 2; Millbrook, 1; Ridgmount, 1; Shillington, 5; Toddington, 3; Westoning, 1; and Woburn, 1.

I now come to the remaining notifiable Zymotic Diseases. The total number brought to my notice amounted to 130, which is an increase on the previous year, when 117 were notified.

In regard to the non-notifiable infectious diseases, there has been a fair amount in several villages, necessitating, in several instances, the closure of the Schools.

CHICKEN-POX. With the exception of an outbreak at Haynes, which necessitated the closing of the infants' school, no epidemic of importance has occurred.

DIPHTHERIA. This disease was very prevalent in several of the parishes during the year, and the large number of 84 cases were brought to my notice. This is the largest number I have ever recorded, and forms about two-thirds of the total number of infectious diseases notified. Twenty-one of these cases occurred at Flitwick, and were a continuation of an epidemic which started in October of the preceding year. Twenty-three cases occurred at Maulden, but all these were not actually suffering from the disease, but contained the bacilli in their throats, and were acting as carriers. In the case of Flitwick, both the Mixed and Infants' Schools were closed on two occasions, and the same also applies to Maulden Schools.

During the latter portion of the year an epidemic broke out at Aspley Guise, and 17 cases were brought to my notice. All the Diphtheria cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital. Only one case proved fatal.

Cases have occurred in the following parishes, viz., Aspley Heath, 3; Cranfield, 2; Haynes, 1; Houghton Conquest, 1; Marston Moretaine, 1; Millbrook, 2; Pulloxhill, 2; Ridgmount, 1; Shillington, 2; Steppingley, 3; Silsoe, 2; and Toddington (Chalton), 3.

ERYSIPELAS. Only three cases have been notified.

ENTERIC FEVER. Only one case, and that an imported one from Sundon. The patient succumbed to the disease.

MALARIA. No cases of this disease have occurred, which shows that the complaint, contracted during the War, is gradually dying out.

MUMPS. As usual, cases have occurred, but no epidemic of sufficient importance to necessitate the closure of the Schools.

MEASLES. This disease has been fairly prevalent. The Schools at Gravenhurst and Tingrith have been closed on account of epidemics, also both departments at Silsoe.

PNEUMONIA. Twenty-eight cases of this disease were brought to my notice, most of which occurred in the first three months of the year, and followed influenza.

PUERPERAL FEVER. No case of this disease has occurred.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM. Three cases have occurred, all of which were nursed at home, and in none of which was the sight affected.

SCARLET FEVER. Singularly few cases of this disease have been brought to my notice. Ten were notified, being distributed over the following parishes, viz., Clophill, 2; Cranfield, 1; Marston Moretaine, 2; Pulloxhill, 1; Shillington, 1; Silsoe, 1; and Woburn, 2. The type of disease was decidedly mild. All these cases, with the exception of one, were removed to Hospital.

SMALL POX. As usual no cases have occurred.

WHOOPING COUGH. Several of the villages have had a few cases, but the only epidemics of any importance were those at Flitwick and Silsoe, necessitating the closure of the Infants' School, and one at Pulloxhill, which caused the School to be closed for a short period.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA. Only one case occurred, and that at Shillington. The case terminated fatally.

ZYMOTIC DIARRHOEA. Only two deaths from this disease were brought to my notice. This is not to be wondered at, as the two conditions conducive to this disease were absent, viz., high temperature and low rainfall during the late Summer months. During July, August and September, we had the rather heavy rainfall of 4'310 in., 2'315 in., and 2'420 in. respectively. Coupled with this, the heat was not excessive. In previous Reports I have

given the steps that ought to be taken to prevent this disease, especially mentioning the common house fly as being an important factor. Under the circumstances, I will not recapitulate what I then said.

The following Notifications (exclusive of Tuberculosis) under the Infectious Notification Act, have been received:—

Amphill	Diphtheria	53	Shillington	Diphtheria	4
	Erysipelas	1		Erysipelas	1
	Pneumonia	17		Encephalitis	
Cranfield	Scarlet Fever.....	3	Woburn	Lethargica.....	1
	Diphtheria	3		Pneumonia	7
	OphthalmiaNeonatorum	3		Scarlet Fever	2
	Pneumonia	4		Diphtheria	24
	Scarlet Fever.....	3		Erysipelas	1
				Enteric Fever.....	1
				Scarlet Fever	2

I now mass the cases of the entire District together, and give the seasons of the year in which they occurred:—

1st Three Months.	2nd Three Months.	3rd Three Months.	4th Three Months.
Diphtheria 40	Diphtheria 16	Diphtheria 14	Diphtheria 14
Erysipelas 1	Encephalitis 1	Erysipelas 1	Pneumonia 7
Ophthalmia 3 Neonatorum)	Lethargica)	Pneumonia 3	
Pneumonia 15	Erysipelas 1	Scarlet Fever 5	
Scarlet Fever 5	Enteric Fever 1		
	Pneumonia 3		
64	22	23	21

As mentioned in previous Reports, disinfectants and printed instructions are supplied gratuitously in all cases of Infectious Notifiable Disease, and at the end of the illness the rooms which the patient occupied are thoroughly disinfected with Formic Aldehyde, free of charge. If the patient is removed to Hospital, the house is disinfected immediately after the removal. In addition to the above, houses where deaths have occurred from Cancer and Phthisis are disinfected. The precautions which are taken in respect to the latter disease have been previously mentioned in this Report. All Schools are disinfected should they be considered a factor in the spread of disease, either notifiable or non-notifiable. The cost of this is refunded by the County Council. In regard to Diphtheria, the Council defray the cost of Antitoxin when used as a prophylactic, in all cases, and pay the medical man administering same 2/6 if patient lives within the one-mile radius, and 1/- extra for each additional mile or portion of a mile. The same advantages are given to medical men when using Antitoxin as a curative agent on poor people. Besides which, the Council undertake to pay for the examination of Diphtheric Swabs, and Widal's Reaction (for the detection of Enteric Fever).

The Rainfall is again included on account of its influence in regard to water supply and flushing of sewers, also its bearing on the causation of various diseases, especially those of the respiratory organs and Zymotic Diarrhoea.

Jan. in.	Feb. in.	Mar. in.	Apl. in.	May in.	June in.	July in.	Aug. in.	Sept. in.	Oct. in.	Nov. in.	Dec. in.
2.790	1.585	1.615	3.065	1.225	1.165	4.310	2.315	2.420	.62	.995	2.035

Total for the year ... 24.140 inches.

This is about the average rainfall for the district. It was taken at Shillington with a 5 in. gauge. Height above sea level, 182 feet. Rain fell on 164 days.

WATER SUPPLY.

Although the rainfall was well up to the average, the effects of the drought of the previous year were severely felt in some of the parishes, especially Haynes, Marston Moretaine, and Houghton Conquest. In regard to Haynes, I have for several years called attention to the inadequate supply of this village, both as to quality and quantity. At last, these complaints are likely to come to fruition. The matter was submitted to the Haynes Parish Council, and, after consideration, they were strongly in favour of water being obtained from outside. It was decided to obtain water from the Ampthill Urban District Council supply at Clophill. The necessary levels have been taken, and plans, sections, and estimates were prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health, with an application for a Loan. Following this, a Public Enquiry was held by an Inspector of the Ministry, at Haynes, in November. There was no difficulty in convincing the Inspector that a water supply was urgently needed for the Parish of Haynes. The Ministry have sanctioned the borrowing of £5,235 for the Scheme, and the work will be commenced at once. As a preliminary, I may say the Council were lucky in being able to purchase the pipe line from Clophill to Haynes Park, which had been used by the troops stationed in Haynes Park during the War. This was obtained from the Disposals Board for a reasonable sum. The Loan, with interest, will have to be re-paid within 30 years. At present, it is impossible to say what the rate of interest will be, as the papers have not yet been returned from the Loans Board. A penny rate in the Parish of Haynes at the present time produces approximately £8. Assuming the interest to be 5 per cent., the annual repayments will be £434, which will necessitate a 4s. 6d. rate per annum.

SEWAGE AND DRAINAGE.

No new sewer has been laid during the year. Extensions of existing sewers have taken place in several of the parishes. The various sewage tanks in the District have been periodically cleaned out. In conjunction with the County Council, one or two untrapped road catchpits have been replaced by glazed trapped gullies in a few of the parishes.

SCAVENGING.

Scavenging schemes are still being carried out at Aspley Guise, Aspley Heath, Flitwick, Toddington, Westoning and Woburn, and no doubt are a boon to the parishes concerned. Personally, I think Clophill would be improved by a system of scavenging.

SCHOOLS.

No structural alteration has taken place at any of the Schools in this area. The following Schools have been closed on account of infectious disease, viz., Clophill, Mixed and Infants', Influenza; Flitwick, Mixed, Diphtheria; Flitwick, Infants', Diphtheria and Whooping Cough; Gravenhurst, Measles; Haynes, Mixed, Influenza; Haynes, Infants', Influenza and Chicken Pox; Marston Moretaine, Church End and Upper Shelton, Influenza; Maulden, Mixed and Infants', Diphtheria and Influenza; Pulloxhill, Influenza and Whooping Cough; Silsoe, Mixed, Influenza and Measles; Silsoe Infants', Influenza, Measles and Whooping Cough; Steppingley, Influenza; Shillington, Mixed and Infants', Influenza; Tingrith, Measles; Westoning, Influenza; and Woburn, Infants', Influenza.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

The following samples have been submitted to the County Analyst during the year:—

Articles Submitted.	Genuine Samples.	Articles Submitted.	Genuine Samples.
Baking Powder ...	1	Margarine ...	2
Beef Suet ...	1	Marmalade...	1
Blackberries (bottled)	1	Milk ...	7
Butter ...	6	Mincemeat...	1
Cakeoma ...	1	Milk (condensed) ...	1
Cheese ...	1	Lemonade Crystals ...	1
Chocolate Powder ...	1	Pepper ...	1
Cocoa ...	3	Pineapple (canned) ...	1
Cocoanut desiccated...	1	Sausages ...	4
Coffee ...	1	Sugar ...	2
Corn Flour...	1	Sultanas ...	1
Cream ...	1	Tapioca ...	1
Lard ...	7	Vinegar ...	1

ADULTERATED SAMPLES. Sample of milk obtained from Aspley Heath contained added water 4½ per cent. Another sample of milk from Aspley Heath was found to be 30 per cent. deficient in fat. A sample of milk from Aspley Guise was found to be 6 per cent. deficient in fat.

HOUSE-TO-HOUSE INSPECTION.

During the year, 120 premises have been inspected at Houghton Conquest, and 171 at Shillington. It is to be hoped considerable progress will be made in the near future with this kind of work, as, owing to the War, this has not received the attention it deserves. The following Permissive Acts, Bye-Laws, and Regulations, are in force in this district:—Building Bye-Laws in respect of new streets and buildings. Regulations under the Dairies and Milkshops Order of 1885. Bye-Laws in regard to slaughter-houses for the following parishes, *viz.*, Aspley Guise, Aspley Heath, Clophill, Cranfield, Flitwick, Marston Moretaine, Maulden, Pulloxhill, Shillington, Toddington and Woburn. Also the Council have applied to the Ministry of Health to add the following parishes, *viz.*—Eversholt, Haynes, Houghton Conquest, Lidlington, Ridgmont, Silsoe and Westoning. Certain sections of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1890 (adopted December, 1900); also of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1907 (adopted 1908).

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area, Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	68,195
Population, 1922	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19,190
Number of inhabited houses, 1921	...	...	...	...	...	...	Census Return not yet issued.				
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1921	...	...	...	...	...	...	Census return not yet received.				
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£99,612 1s. 11d.
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£415

HOUSING.

Number of New Houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
(b) As part of a Municipal Housing Scheme	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses.
Inspection—

(1) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	595
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	291
(3) Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	—
(4) Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	310

2. Remedy of defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	293
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3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc, Act, 1919.

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	—
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit:—					
(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	...	...	—

(3) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close	—
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B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	17
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(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied:—							
(a) By Owners	7
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	—
C. Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.							
(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(3) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the Dwelling Houses having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(4) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(5) Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

VACCINATION.

I will now give the Births and Vaccinations of each sub-district:—

	Births.	Vaccinations.
Amphill	146	23
Cranfield	63	6
Shillington	43	3
Woburn	120	44

As usual, with the exception of the Woburn sub-district, Vaccination has become practically a dead letter. This, no doubt, is due to the blind ignorance of the people, combined with the ease with which exemption certificates may be obtained. As the total number of Births amounted to 372, and the Vaccinations 76, it shows a percentage of 20·4. This is worse than the low record of last year, which was 23·2.

Administration of the Factories and Workshops Act, 1901, for the Year 1922.

As practically no change has taken place since my last Report, I do not intend going into detail, as to do so would only be a matter of repetition. The Inspector's time is spent mainly in connection with slaughterhouses and bakehouses. There is not much fault to be found in connection with these premises.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

SMALL-POX HOSPITAL. This is a Hospital of eight beds (four for each sex), situated in the Parish of Steppingley. It has not been necessary to use this Hospital.

In regard to the other Hospital, Dr. Langham Garner, the Medical Superintendent of this Institution, has kindly furnished me with the following account of its administration:—

“ISOLATION HOSPITAL FOR DIPHTHERIA, SCARLET AND ENTERIC FEVERS. This Hospital contains 20 beds. During 1922 we admitted 130 cases to the Hospital, viz., Diphtheria, 119; Scarlet Fever, 10; Enteric, 1.

“Three cases proved fatal:

- (a) The Enteric, a patient from Harlington, 8 days after admission;
- (b) 2 cases of Diphtheria;

1, an urban patient, 2 days after admission;

2, a rural patient, 10 days after admission.

“**SCARLET FEVER.** The type of disease was mild, and complications *nil*. Nine patients came from the rural district, and 1 from Amphill. Four were admitted during January and February, and the ward was closed from April 6 until June 25. The remaining 5 came in between the latter date and September, and the wards were again free from patients on November 16, remaining so until the end of the year.

"DIPHTHERIA. 119 patients, of whom 34 were urban, 20 from Flitwick, 17 from Aspley Guise, and 23 from Maulden, leaving only 25 for the rest of the rural district. Although, on the whole, the type of disease was mild, we had in the wards during the year 6 cases of exceptional severity, which suffered from extensive paralysis and great cardiac weakness: these were in the wards for about 3 months, the average duration of stay being 32 days."

During the last twelve months, your Inspector and Assistant Inspector have got over a considerable amount of work with great tact and ability. The addition of an Assistant Inspector has conduced to the sanitary work of the Council being more thorough.

In conclusion, I must beg to thank the Clerk for his kindly help in anything concerning the sanitation of the district.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

KILHAM ROBERTS, M.O.H.

March 29th, 1923.

Amphill Rural District Council.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1922.

Summary of defects and other matters dealt with during the year:—

1.	Nuisances caused by Defective and Insufficient Closets	...	...	49
2.	" " " Ashpits and Bins	...	13	
3.	" " " Drains	...	6½	
4.	" Damp Premises	...	...	4
5.	" Spouting required to Eaves	...	...	25
6.	" Overcrowding	...	...	3
7.	" Accumulations of offensive matter	...	...	30
8.	Dwellings requiring Cleansing and Limewashing	...	...	15
9.	" Repairs to Roofs and Chimney Heads	...	...	27
10.	" Sundry Structural repairs	...	...	54
11.	" with Insufficient Light and Ventilation	...	...	9
12.	" Defective or Insufficient Water Supply	...	...	7
13.	" " Windows	...	...	28
14.	" " " Yard Paving	...	...	3
15.	Wells and Pumps requiring repairs and cleansing	...	...	14
16.	New Houses received Water Certificates	...	...	36
17.	Insanitary Sinks	...	...	2
18.	Defective Soft Water Tanks	...	...	5
19.	" Pigsties	...	...	5
20.	Inspections of Diseased Meat, &c.	...	...	4
21.	Rooms Disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	...	167
22.	" " " Tuberculosis	...	...	33
23.	" " " Cancer	...	...	23
24.	Schools Disinfected	...	...	7
25.	Other cases of Tuberculosis	...	...	15
Total ...				642

The above 642 cases were approximately in connection with 595 premises.

Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	4
" Informal " "	...	...	...	...	335
" Complaints received and dealt with	...	...	...	...	37
Proceedings taken	...	...	...	...	Nil

SEWERAGE.

Various small improvements have been made to the Sewers in the parishes of Silsoe and Toddington. Extensions to existing sewers have been made at Marston Shelton; High Street, Clophill; Leighton Road, Toddington; Mill Lane, Greenfield, Flitton; and also at High Street, Greenfield, this last work being for the joint benefit of the parishes of Flitton and Pulloxhill.

The sewers in all the parishes needing it have been flushed. A new Disc Flushing Valve has been fixed to the pond at Toddington, and connected to the Main Sewer. This should be of great service in adequately flushing the Sewer, and the Sewer Ditch below the Gas Works.

The Sewage tanks have been cleaned out periodically in the parishes of Maulden, Shillington, Harlington, Silsoe, Toddington, Westoning, Pulloxhill, Salford and Eversholt.

In conjunction with the County Council, untrapped road catchpits have been replaced by glazed trapped gullies in the parishes of Shillington, Clophill, Maulden and Toddington.

The following is a list of Sewage Tanks in the district:—

Maulden	-	-	2	Pulloxbill	-	-	2	
Shillington	-	-	1	Salford	-	-	1	
Harlington	-	-	2	Eversholt	-	-	1	
Silsoe	-	-	3					
Toddington	-	-	3			Total	-	16
Westoning	-	-	1					—

There is a total mileage of Slop Water Sewers in the District, distributed as follows:—

	Miles.	Yards.		Miles.	Yards.
Clophill		1015 $\frac{1}{2}$	Maulden		623 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cranfield	1	742 $\frac{1}{2}$	Pulloxbill		1143 $\frac{1}{2}$
Eversholt		690	Ridgmont		333 $\frac{1}{2}$
Flitton		450 $\frac{1}{2}$	Salford		200
Flitwick		180	Shillington	1	670
Gravenhurst		921 $\frac{1}{2}$	Silsoe		1330
Harlington		903 $\frac{1}{2}$	Tingrith		950
Haynes		800	Toddington	3	1638
Houghton Conquest		405	Westoning		1340
Husborne Crawley		128 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Lidlington		154 $\frac{1}{2}$	Total	15 Miles,	1386 $\frac{1}{2}$ Yards *
Marston Moretaine	1	1218 $\frac{1}{2}$	*Total in 1913	12 Miles,	1511 Yards

And a total mileage of 10 miles, 1313 yards of Sewers in connection with Sewage Schemes discharging at proper Sewage Disposal Works, distributed as follows:—

Aspley Guise	-	-	4 Miles.	440	Yards.
Aspley Heath	-	-	2 „	880	„
Woburn	-	-	3 „	1753	„
Total	-	-	10 „	1313 $\frac{1}{2}$	„

[†] The same as in 1913.

In addition there are 4 miles, 831 yards of sewer ditches in connection with the slop water sewers that need periodical attention, distributed as follows:—

		Yards.			Yards.
Clophill	-	220	Maulden	-	715
Cranfield	-	616	Pulloxbill	-	396
Flitton	-	418	Ridgmont	-	88
Flitwick	-	135	Salford	-	143
Gravenhurst	-	242	Shillington	-	35 $\frac{1}{2}$
Harlington	-	264	Silsoe	-	440
Haynes	-	330	Tingrith	-	300
Houghton Conquest	-	363	Toddington	-	957
Husborne Crawley	-	165	Westoning	-	330
Lidlington	-	341			
Marston Moretaine	-	1056	Total	4 Miles,	831 Yards.

WATER SUPPLY.

Although the Summer was not so dry as that of 1921, there was a shortage in several parishes, particularly Haynes, Marston Moretaine and Houghton Conquest, the effects of the drought of 1921 still being felt.

With regard to the suggested scheme for supplying Haynes with water from the Ampthill Urban District Council supply at Clophill. The necessary Levels have been taken, and Plans, Sections and Estimates prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health with an application for a Loan. A Public Enquiry was held by Dr. Brightmore, an inspector of the Ministry, at Haynes, in November. The Pipe Line from the Ampthill Urban District Council's Main at Clophill to Haynes Park (which formerly supplied the Camp there) has been purchased from the Disposals Board, with a view to utilizing it in connection with this water supply. The Ministry have sanctioned the borrowing of £5,235 for the scheme, and the work is to be proceeded with at once.

SCAVENGING WORK.

ASPLEY GUISE. The collection of house refuse from ashbins and ashpits has been continued. The total cost of the work for the year amounts to £74 4s. 2d., averaging £1 8s. 6d. per week. The refuse is collected fortnightly, and during 1922 the contractor emptied, and disposed of the refuse from 3,124 receptacles.

ASPLEY HEATH. The fortnightly collection of dry house refuse from a few houses in the parish that are without gardens, continued. During the year the contractor emptied 364 receptacles at a total cost of £9 4s. 6d.

FLITWICK. A fresh contractor has carried out the work since May. The total cost for the past twelve months has been £258 10s. 7d., equal to an average of £4 19s. 5d. per week, against £5 0s. 4d. per week in the previous year. The following sanitary receptacles have been emptied during the year: Ashpits 40, ashbins 13,941, closet pails 27,980, closet vaults 22, and cesspools 145.

TODDINGTON. The work continues to be satisfactorily carried out by the two Contractors. The total cost for the year is £194 15s. 7d., representing an average of £3 14s. 11d. per week, against £3 19s. 1d. for the previous year. The following work has been carried out by the two Contractors; they have emptied: Ashpits 250, ashbins 7,994, closet pails 28,560, closet vaults 176, and cesspools 11.

WESTONING. The scavenging has been carried out by the same Contractor during the past twelve months. The total cost of the work has been £103 16s. 10d., equal to an average cost per week of £1 19s. 11d., against £2 8s. 5d. the year before. The Contractor has carried out the following work. He has emptied: Ashbins 3,952, closet pails 8,736, closet vaults 19, and cesspools 3.

WOBURN. The collection of dry refuse has been continued during the year. The total cost of the work has been £83 2s. 6d., an average of £1 11s. 11d. per week. 12,064 moveable receptacles have been emptied during the year, and 56 ashpits.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The bakehouses and slaughterhouses in the District have been regularly inspected. There are at present 38 bakehouses, and 33 slaughterhouses in the District. Defects have been reported at 18 bakehouses and 14 slaughterhouses. The details of each inspection are entered in the Factory and Workshop Inspection Book. The number of bakehouses remains the same as last year.

Two licences have been granted for the use of slaughterhouses; the use of one slaughterhouse has been discontinued in the parish of Houghton Conquest.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

The total number of persons registered since the Regulations came into force in 1900, is 354: the number registered during the year is 15. 186 have been crossed off the Register from time to time, as, having discontinued the trade, left the district, &c., leaving 168 persons who have 170 premises liable to inspection. The number of premises inspected is 170, of which 10 dairies, and 32 cowsheds required work to floors, walls, drains, &c. The approximate number of cows milked in the district is 1,799, against 1,714 the previous year.

PRIVATE STREETS WORKS ACT.

During the year, two roadways at Flitwick, known as The Ridgway and The Thinnings, were made up under the above Act, and will, in future, be kept in repair by this Council.

HOUSE-TO-HOUSE INSPECTION.

During the year this has been continued, and 120 premises have been inspected at Houghton Conquest, and 171 at Shillington.

NEW BUILDINGS.

Plans have been received during the year for:—

12 Dwelling houses	1 Vestry
7 Bungalows	1 Addition to Entertainment Hall
16 Additions to existing houses	4 Workshops
2 New drainage to existing houses	3 Shops
1 Mission Hall	1 Sunday School

Total 48, against 44 last year.

111 Inspections of New Buildings, &c., have been made during the year.

HOUSING.

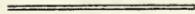
During the year the last of the 56 houses erected by the Council were completed, and all are occupied.

LEONARD FOSTER, Inspector.

W. HAYLOCK, Assistant Inspector.

27th February, 1923.

FLITWICK, AMPHILL.



CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE
Ampthill Rural District in the year 1922.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males.	Females.	CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males.	Females.
CIVILIANS ONLY.			CIVILIANS ONLY.		
ALL CAUSES	126	150			
Enteric Fever	...	1	Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	1	1
Small-pox	...		Appendicitis and Typhlitis	3	
Measles	...	1	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...		Acute and Chronic Nephritis	2	4
Whooping-cough	...	3	Puerperal Sepsis	...	
Diphtheria	...		Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition		4
Influenza	...	10			
Encephalitis Lethargica	...		Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth	4	3
Meningococcal Meningitis	...		Suicide	...	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	10	Other Deaths from Violence	2	2
Other Tuberculous diseases	3	2	Other Defined Diseases	29	36
Cancer, malignant disease	12	16	Causes ill-defined or unknown	4	1
Rheumatic Fever	...		Special Causes (included above)		
Diabetes	...	1	Poliomyelitis	...	
Cerebral Haemorrhage, &c.	9	18	Polioencephalitis	...	
Heart Disease	...	8	Deaths of Infants	Total	12
Arterio-sclerosis	...	5	under 1 year	Illegitimate	6
Bronchitis	...	10			
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	5	TOTAL BIRTHS	...	197
Other Respiratory diseases	2	7	Legitimate	...	175
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum			Illegitimate	...	190
			Population	...	164
					7
					11
					19190

TABLE X.—Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1922.

(Provisional figures. Populations estimated to the middle of 1921 have been used for the purposes of this Table. The Mortality Rates refer to the whole Population as regards England and Wales, but only to Civilians as regards London and the groups of Towns.)

	Birth-rate per 1,000 Total Population.	Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population.									Rate per 1,000 Births.	Percentage of Total Deaths.	
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping-cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.			
England and Wales...	20.6	12.9	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.04	0.10	0.11	0.54	0.44	6.2	77	25.6
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London...	21.4	13.0	0.01	0.00	0.22	0.05	0.19	0.13	0.56	0.41	7.6	82	32.9
165 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000-50,000)...	20.5	11.7	0.01	0.00	0.10	0.03	0.15	0.09	0.58	0.36	5.6	75	16.9
London...	21.0	13.4	0.01	0.00	0.35	0.07	0.25	0.25	0.57	0.45	7.1	74	45.7